



LAC-IEE-04-71

ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION

Project Location:	Mexico, CAM Region
Project Title:	Sustainable and Effective Institutional Capacity Developed to Diagnose, Control and Monitor Tuberculosis in Target Areas
Project Number:	523-023 (previously 523-008)
Life of SO:	FY 2000 – FY 2006
Funding Level:	\$16,000,000 over LOP
IEE Prepared by:	Molly Lindner, USAID/Mexico
Recommended Threshold Decision:	Categorical Exclusion/ Negative Determination with Conditions
Bureau Threshold Decision:	Categorical Exclusion and Negative Determination with Conditions

Comments:

A **Categorical Exclusion** is issued to all those activities described in the attached IEE, involving education, technical assistance, training, studies, and health, nutrition and population activities that do “not have an effect on the natural or physical environment,” pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(i), (v), and (viii).

A **Negative Determination, with conditions** is issued for activities involving the preparation, transport of medical samples and the disposal of medical and potentially hazardous waste. The **condition** for this program is that the USAID/Mexico Mission in collaboration with the SSA and implementing partner (INER) develop a monitoring and reporting plan to be used by the USAID Mission manager of this program and the MEO to assure that effective mechanisms for monitoring, evaluating, and mitigating potential environmental impacts in strict accordance to Mexican law and regulation as well as USAID LAC guidelines are implemented. This plan will be reviewed by the MEO and REA and submitted to the BEO for approval. The plan will be submitted to the BEO by the end of the 3rd quarter of FY 2005.

At the end of each fiscal year, the implementing agent as part of its regular reporting requirement will include a section of its annual report which will provide the results of the use of the environmental guidelines. The Mission Environmental Officer will conduct spot checks to verify that guidelines are properly used to implement all activities in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner in full accordance with all salient Agency and USG policies and regulations.

CTOs are responsible for making sure environmental requirements are met. It is the responsibility of the SO Team to ensure that the SOAG and MAARDs for contracts and grants contain specific instructions to this effect.

Date _____
George R. Thompson, P.E.
Bureau Environmental Officer
Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

- Copy to : Edward Kadunc, Director, USAID/Mexico
- Copy to : Heather Huppe, MEO, USAID/Mexico
- Copy to : Molly Lindner, USAID/Mexico
- Copy to : Nancy Alvey, USAID/Mexico
- Copy to : Sara Walter, USAID/Mexico
- Copy to : John Beed, USAID/Mexico
- Copy to : Mike Donald, REA
- Copy to : Elizabeth Ramirez, LAC/CAM
- Copy to : IEE File

Attachment: IEE

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**INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION
Tuberculosis SOAG USAID/Mexico Secretary of Health**

Project Location: Mexico, CAM Region

Project Title: Sustainable and Effective Institutional Capacity Developed to Diagnose, Control and Monitor Tuberculosis in Target Areas

Project Number: 523-023 (previously 523-008)

Life of SO: FY 2000 – FY 2006

Funding Level: \$16,000,000 over LOP

IEE Prepared by: Molly Lindner, USAID/Mexico

Recommended Threshold Decision: Categorical Exclusion/
Negative Determination with Conditions

MISSION DIRECTOR'S
DECISION

Approved: _____
Edward Kadunc

Date: _____

Purpose

This evaluation is to amend the existing Threshold Determination on the Tuberculosis Prevention and Control program, LAC-IEE-00-04 which expires with FY 2004. In addition to extending the categorical exclusion threshold initially granted to this program, this amended evaluation presents: a new activity number and project title for this program, and modified threshold recommendations on activities that are now better defined than when the program was originally evaluated.

Background and Activity Description

In August 2000, USAID and the Mexican Secretariat of Health (SSA) signed a joint strategic grant agreement to strengthen TB prevention and control efforts. Together, the Mexican National TB Program of the SSA and USAID have developed a collaborative program plan focusing on 13 target states with the highest TB rates and concentration of migrant population; Baja

California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo León, Tamaulipas, Chiapas, Oaxaca, Jalisco, Veracruz, Michoacán, Guerrero, and Zacatecas.

USAID's goal is to work with the SSA to support a sustainable and effective institutional capacity in Mexico to diagnose, control, and monitor TB. The primary areas of intervention address strengthening infrastructure capacity, treatment protocol and monitoring, community organization and mobilization, personnel training, program management coordination, and information systems and research.

Program Components

The collaborative program as described in the SOAG includes the following components:

Intermediate Result 1: Improved national and local political and administrative commitment to a tuberculosis control program.

- Regular meetings with government and non-government health sector organizations.
- Enhanced collaboration, resources, skills and information among stakeholders.
- Hiring and training of health workers to raise awareness of and commitment to program and their level of understanding of modern TB control practices.
- Operations research to identify opportunity areas that reinforce program activities.

Key to overall program success is political and administrative commitment to a scaled-up national tuberculosis control program. To strengthen Mexico's institutional capacity to expand the national TB program, the substantial component in this collaboration includes the hiring and training of program administrators, coordinators, supervisors, and community health workers. The development of training modules and materials will be distributed to the states for implementation.

Intermediate Result 2: Increased use of laboratory-based diagnosis to identify tuberculosis cases.

- Strengthening of SSA's network of laboratories with smear microscopy and drug resistance testing capability
- Purchase of laboratory equipment.
- Implementation of systematic technical training and quality assurance program to improve practices and resources management.

One of the principal goals of the collaborative program is to increase the capacity of the national laboratory network to improve bacteriologic examination practices by strengthening their testing capability, installing a systematic quality assurance program, and improving laboratory practices and resources. The national laboratory system is part of the Instituto Nacional de Diagnóstico y Referencia Epidemiológicos, Secretaría de Salud, México (InDRE). As part of this, USAID will support the purchase of some laboratory equipment such as microscopes, autoclaves, incubators, freezers and so forth that are used as part of the diagnostic process.

USAID support will be targeted to laboratories within the existing national system. Nationwide, there are 650 basic laboratories, 6 state laboratories and 1 federal level laboratory facility in Mexico. These laboratories process approximately 620,000 micro bacteriological analyses annually; detecting approximately 16,000 new TB cases every year. The protocol for handling samples and diagnosing TB disease is standardized in these laboratories and involves standard and established microbiological protocols and use of sterile techniques.

Intermediate Result 3: Improved directly observed therapy meeting strict case definitions.

- Training of health personnel in DOTS, and creation of standardized training modules.
- Administration under direct observation of complete short-course therapy to all new tuberculosis patients, and organization of community based treatment delivery systems.
- Improved DOTS services for migrants, by strengthening national and international referral systems (Binational TB Card)
- TB health education promotion as part of a national awareness campaign and community activities to obtain DOTS support.

Due to the long, albeit uncomplicated, TB treatment, the World Health Organization approach adopted by Mexico is the DOTS strategy which involves direct observation and oversight of individual patient adherence to six month uninterrupted treatment. The program activities for expanding DOTS focus on community awareness and involvement at the state and local level.

Intermediate Result 4: Improved mechanisms for monitoring program activities.

- Development of performance indicators for project monitoring and evaluation.
- Development of information management system for program evaluation and data management and analysis.
- Evaluation of characteristics of TB thru annual risk infection survey and national drug resistance study.

In an effort to streamline multiple epidemiological surveillance systems, the program will develop an information management system for program evaluation, data management, and analysis. A group of international experts will carry out an annual external program evaluation in order to determine project accomplishments and recommend refinements.

The national multi-drug resistant (MDR) study is necessary to determine the prevalence of MDR in Mexico and is a top priority for this collaborative program. The protocol for the study has been developed in consultation with the Center for Disease Control and in strict accordance to international standards set by the World Health Organization. The sample size of the study is 800 confirmed patients with TB who will be tested for drug susceptibility which requires the use of a carbon 14 low β radiation liquid for the culture and recovery of microbacteria from clinical specimens to accurately diagnosis various MDR strains of TB.

Threshold Recommendations for the Program:

Activities described under IRs 1 and 3 primarily involve improved and expanded coordination efforts in order to scale up the national TB program, whereby administrative personnel, systems, and infrastructure are in place as well as community level efforts. These activities involve education, training, information management and other capacity building technical assistance which will have no impact on the natural or physical environment, and therefore qualify for a **Categorical Exclusion** under 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2) (i) Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include the activities directly affecting the environment; (v) Document and information transfers; (viii) Programs involving nutrition, health care or population and family planning services except to the extent designed to include activities directly affecting the environment.

Activities described under IR 2 and 4 for expanding the capacity of the national laboratory system to diagnose TB and training technicians in its diagnosis as well as the national drug resistance study may have potential environmental impacts and warrant a **Negative Determination with Conditions**. These activities involve the preparation, transport of medical samples and the disposal of medical and potentially hazardous waste. As such, the mitigation measures, guidelines and best management practices for medical waste handling and disposal are applicable as outlined in the Environmental Guidelines for Development Activities in Latin America and the Caribbean 2003 (5-19). In addition, the Mexican government sustains a series of environmental and health laws and regulations that address and govern the issues of handling the types of waste produced (both clinical and radioactive) in this project as well as the operations of clinics and laboratories that are in accordance with established USAID/LAC Environmental Guidelines and are generally in congruence with international standards and norms.

Given this, the **condition recommended** for this program is that the USAID/Mexico Mission in collaboration with the SSA and implementing partner (INER) develop a monitoring and reporting plan to be used by the USAID Mission manager of this program and the MEO to assure that effective mechanisms for monitoring, evaluating, and mitigating potential environmental impacts in strict accordance to Mexican law and regulation as well as USAID LAC guidelines are implemented. This plan will be reviewed by the MEO and REA and submitted to the BEO for approval. The plan will be submitted to the BEO by the end of the 3rd quarter of FY 2005.

Clearances:

Nancy Alvey, Heath Team Leader, USAID/Mexico	_____	Date _____
Heather Huppe, MEO, USAID/Mexico	_____	Date _____
Sara Walter, Program Officer, USAID/Mexico	_____	Date _____
John Beed, Program Manager, USAID/Mexico	_____	Date _____
Michael Donald, REA, USAID/G-CAP	_____	Date _____